

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 4318-01
Bill No.: HB 1946
Subject: Education, Elementary and Secondary: Social Services Dept
Type: Original
Date: April 18, 2006

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.
This fiscal note contains 4 pages.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

The Children's Division of the **Department of Social Services (DOS)** do anticipate a minimal fiscal impact due to this legislation. This proposal would mandate the St. Louis City school district to report all instances of school absences which exceed fifteen (15) days. This would include instances which meet the criteria for educational neglect and truancy. Truancy cases fall normally under the auspices of the Juvenile Office, not the Children's Division.

Although there is a similar protocol now in effect in St. Louis City, referrals from the school district are made sporadically. Mandating such referrals in law and including all cases, including truanies, would result in an increase in the number of educational neglect reports to the Children's Division.

It is difficult to ascertain exactly how many more reports and investigations / family assessments DOS would get from this. However, even if the Children's Division received a 50% increase in educational neglect only reports, the division would require one additional staff person to manage these additional calls, therefore the expected fiscal impact would be minimal and less than \$100,000.

Oversight assumes the costs associated with the anticipated minimal number of cases resulting
ASSUMPTION (continued)

from this proposal could be absorbed with existing resources. If a significant fiscal impact were to result, funds could be sought through the appropriations process.

Officials from the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)** state this proposal will have no fiscal impact on their agency; however, the proposal will likely result in additional record keeping, tracking, and reporting duties for the St. Louis Public School District. DESE assumes the resulting costs could be significant; however, they defer to the school district regarding any impact.

Officials from the **St Louis Public School District** did not respond to a request for fiscal impact. **Oversight** assumes that since a protocol has already been established, no additional cost will be assigned to the school district for this proposal.

Officials from the **Office of State Courts Administrator - Division of Juvenile and Adult Court Program** did not respond to a request for fiscal impact. **Oversight** assumes, based on information from the Department of Social Services regarding protocol already in place, that if a significant fiscal impact were to result, funds could be sought through the appropriations process.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

DESCRIPTION

This proposed legislation requires the City of St. Louis School District to report to the Children's Division within the Department of Social Services when any student younger than 17 years of age incurs 15 or more absences. The division will contact the parents or guardians regarding the absences and the possibility that they are subject to the educational neglect provisions under Section 210.145, RSMo.

DESCRIPTION (continued)

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Social Services
Children's Division
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

NOT RESPONDING

**Office of State Courts Administration
Division of Juvenile and Adult Court Programs
St Louis City Public School District**



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Director
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